### **SMITH:Camp Roberts dedicated to upholding standards of quality**

Continued from page 1

Army National Guardsmen and women being mobilized for duty here and aboard. The purpose or mission of Camp Roberts is to support all of these diverse activities. Camp Roberts is dedicated to upholding the standards of quality established by the Adjutant General of the California National Guard and maintaining Department of Defense principles of excellence for installations. In doing so, we will remain focused on our mission to sustain joint forces training and mobilizations concurrently with

state emergency operations and community support. Our urgent goal for Camp Roberts is to revitalize the existing structures and infrastructure. In this next year, we plan to finish construction of the Soldier Readiness Processing Center, build a new dining facility, and refurbish the post theater and three more battalion complexes (barracks, laundry rooms, day rooms).

The post offers many facilities and opportunities to enhance training and support. In the coming training years we add new live-fire weapon

ranges. We will also field a
Distance Learning Center and a
simulation complex for live, virtual,
and constructive combat training.
Our Morale, Welfare, and
Recreation Department will expand
services available to soldiers and
public organizations. And in the
course of all this, I intend to continue a partnership of goodwill with
our communities. We look forward
to providing the platform for support of all your training, operational, and recreational needs.
Welcome to Camp Roberts



Members of the Camp Roberts Employee Council gather at the Main Gate before beginning their "perimeter patrol" for the Adopt-a-Highway Program.

# Employee Council "patrols" the outer perimeter

By Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake
LTHOUGH Camp Roberts is a busy place during mobilizations, members of the Camp Roberts Employee
Council still manage to break away from their busy schedules once a month and do their part to help keep their part of California beautiful. As traffic whizzes by them mere yards away in a 70-plus miles-per-hour blur, they do a good old-fashioned military "police call," picking-up litter outside the camp's front fence.

#### ADOPT A HIGHWAY

The camp's Employee Council is an active participant in Caltrans (the California Department of Transportation) "Adopt-a-Highway" program, working the last Thursday of the month, weather and missions permitting, to clean-up litter on U. S. Highway 101. The council, consisting largely of the camp's civilian employees who are also residents in the surrounding communities, covers both sides of the highway for one mile in both directions from the Camp Roberts' Main Gate. Caltrans regulations for the project prohibit Adopt-a-Highway volunteers from working in the center divider and steep hillsides that are a part of the Camp Roberts Employee Council coverage area. A typical "haul" consists of

around 15 bags of trash. With an

Salute to Camp

Roberts

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help of the following indi-

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estimated weight of most of the distinctive white bags around 20 pounds, they are gathered together at several locations on the side of the road for later collection by Caltrans.

In addition to providing trash bags, Caltrans also provides blazeorange "Adopt-a-Highway Volunteer" safety vests and a tool for picking-up the trash from the ground to eliminate the need to stoop. The pick-up tool is particularly welcome for handling the most common of what all involved considered the most disgusting of roadside trash, the disposable diaper. Several are picked-up at every clean up, neatly folded and suitable for proper disposal, but flung out the car window to litter the highway instead.

Most of the trash usually consists of thoughtlessly tossed fast-food wrappers and containers, presumably from fast-food restaurants 15 minutes south in Paso Robles. Also usually well represented are beverage cans and bottles.

#### **MORE THAN TRASH**

Not all found on the side of the highway is trash. Paper money has been found before in previous clean ups, the largest being a \$20 bill. Tools, such as the pair of large slipjoint pliers recovered recently, are frequent finds as well.

Some litter seems to defy explana-

tion, such as the articles of clothing Bonnie Nelson, a civilian employee at Camp Roberts, says she has found on the side of the road. "You sometimes wonder what people are thinking," she says.

Some litter seems to make the case for either driving with the windows or convertible top up when driving the posted-70 miles-perhour speed limit in the area. Recent finds have included things that have apparently blown out of a car, such as a photo of a man with his dog and a nicely laminated street map of San Luis Obispo County.

#### UNTOLD STORIES

And some items of litter have a story that would probably never be completely told: the remains of reflector posts are occasionally picked-up from the side of the road, a silent witness to the inattentiveness of an unknown driver who got just a little too close to the edge of the road.

The Camp Roberts Employee Council consists of approximately a dozen employee volunteers working at the camp. In addition to their participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program, the Employee Council organizes various fundraisers throughout the year in order to sponsor the camp's annual employee Christmas party.

We are privileged to pay tribute to our area veterans.
We owe you a world of gratitude!

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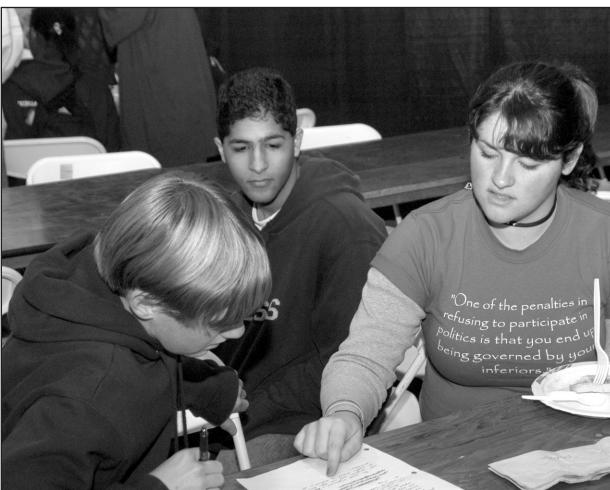
To All of Our Area Veterans, Past & Present,

Thank You For Your Service,

to Insure Our Freedom!







Stephanie Rhodes, right, an advisor with the Torrance YMCA, makes some suggestions concerning legislation being proposed by Nathan Gibson, left. Riaz Rahim, center, looks on. Rhodes' shirt has a quote from Plato: "One of the penalties in refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."

## Support to YMCA education program enters 14th year

By Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake

HILE most California
students will be taking a
long weekend away
from studies over this Veteran's
Day weekend, new student delegates of the California YMCA's
Youth and Government Program
spend their weekend learning more
about the political process at the
YMCA Youth and Government's
33rd Annual Training and Elections
I Conference. The conference
returns for the 14th consecutive
year to Camp Roberts.

The program educates young people in the workings of the political process and the organization of state-level government through the organization and operation of a Model Legislature and Court during the school year. In addition to six months of weekly sessions held at local YMCA's throughout the state, the program holds two training sessions at Camp Roberts: a smaller introductory session for new delegates in November, and the much larger mandatory threeday conference for the election of next year's officials in January.

This year's program ends in Sacramento with the 57th Model Legislature and Court in February. Camp Roberts' location, size and economic accommodations capable of housing and providing conference facilities for the over 2,600 students, advisors and program volunteers who attended last January's larger conference, have come to make it a welcome cost-effective

alternative to arranging comparable hotel space. "If we didn't have Camp Roberts," said Director Bud Sheble, "we could only be in some huge hotel.... skyrocketing the cost so most kids could not participate."

Sheble said even with the savings afforded by using Camp Roberts' facilities, yearly costs approach \$700.00 for each participant, making the camp "the most wonderful thing that has happened to this program."

Use of the camp's facilities also helps to reduce the drain on an endowment fund established by former California Governor George Deukmejian that provides scholarships for those deserving delegates whose families simply cannot afford to send them to the program, enabling more disadvantaged youths to attend.

Program Director Avi Wolfe said the great relationships established over the years with the Camp Roberts staff makes the event easier to run. "They bend over backwards to accommodate us," he said.

Sheble echoed Wolfe's sentiments: "We consider it our program's second home."

Sheble is hopeful the Youth and Government Program will be able to continue to use Camp Roberts and its facilities in the years to come. "We know of no other place this training could take place.



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We Salute and Thank Camp Roberts Personnel!



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